

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

U N Headquarters, New York, April 24 – 5 May, 2017

Statement made by: Dr. Anjali Probha Daimari, President Boro Women's Justice Forum

On

Item 4: Human Rights

Respected Chairperson,

It is my great pleasure to be here and represent the indigenous Boro people from the North East India. Boro is the single largest indigenous community in the entire region of the North East India. But they are politically deprived, economically subdued and socially backward. For ages Boro people have bore the brunt of suppression and oppression of dominant and advanced group of people.

Therefore, to live with dignity and honour in their ancestral land, the Boro people have been fighting for the right to self determination. This has led to gross human right violation committed by both state actor and non state actor. Our young population has suffered immensely due to conflict situation. Many youths were killed in fake encounter and many were maimed for the life along with women stigmatize with sexual exploitation.

Respected Chairperson, we have not been able to enjoy the basic human right as indigenous people, because of lackadaisical attitude of the Indian government in implementing UNDRIP. It is unfortunate that despite ratifying the declaration, India refuses to recognize us as the indigenous peoples.

The lands of indigenous people are grabbed with dubious means. They are displaced from their traditional habitat. Reserved areas are being thrown open to non qualified citizen to settle rendering the indigenous people vulnerable to exploitation by advanced community. This happens under the very nose of state machinery. The government's rampant denying basic amenity to indigenous people to live a dignified life is a gross human right violation.

Respected Chairperson, Boro people have been engaged in democratic as well as armed movement for their rights - political, social, economical and cultural since independence of India in 1947 and prior to it. But it has gone unheeded till now. These rights are enshrined in the UNDRIP in clear terms. The National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) and All Boro Student's Union (ABSU) are now engaged in peace nick for political solution of vexed Boro

issues, but the insincerity of government of India is evading solution further aggravating the situation in Boroland. These situations create a fertile ground for human rights offenders.

Respected Chairperson, though the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 or Right to Education (RTE) provides free and compulsory primary education setting minimum standards and improving the quality of education in India, the education scenario in the indigenous dominated areas is in shamble and far from dream as there is no standards and improvement in the quality of education.

Recommendations:

1. The government must recognize the indigenous people of India and restore all the rights as per UNDRIP.
2. The government and other agencies must work to respect and restore the culture and language of indigenous Boro people.
3. The government should protect the land of Indigenous and tribal people.
4. The government of India must find amicable solution to political issue of Boro people without delay.
5. The government must not only make the education free and compulsory but also must set the minimum standards and improve the quality for the indigenous population.

Thank you for your kind attention!